

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 9426

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EEC, COMECON, ECON

SUBJECT: EC REPLY TO CEMA'S PROPOSED COOPERATION AGREEMENT

REF: (A) ECB 9236, (B) ECB 9090, (C) ECB 5733, (D) ECB 1762

1. EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL (MASLEN), RESPONSIBLE FOR EC-CEMA RELATIONS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS CIRECTORATE GENERAL AND DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS OF DRAWING UP OPTIONS FOR EC REPLY TO CEMA'S PROPOSED COOPERATION AGREEMENT, CONFIRMED TO US THAT DISCUSSION OF EC-CEMA RELATIONS DURING THE SEPTEMBER 20 FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL WAS INCONCLUSIVE. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS DECIDED TO RETURN THE COMMISSION'S OPTION PAPER (REFTEL B) TO COREPER FOR FURTHER REVIEW, WITH A VIEW TO TAKING UP THE FILE AGAIN DURING THE OCTOBER 18-19 COUNCIL SESSION. MASLEN EXPECTS THAT COREPER WILL ITSELF RETURN THE FILE TO THE COMMISSION FOR FURTHER ELABORATION OF SPECIFIC POINTS RAISED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS DURING THEIR DISCUSSION. HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT WHILE THE COMMISSION IS UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO REPLY SOON, A LENGTHY DELAY MIGHT ONLY PROVIDE GRIST FOR THE SOVIET PROPAGANDA MILL IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BELGRADE CSCE FOLLOW-UP MEETING. HE STATED THAT THE COMMISSION IS ANXIOUS TO HAVE A FULL REPLY READY AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL BEFORE THE APRIL 1977 ECE MEETING.

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2. A COUNCIL SOURCE HAS PROVIDED FURTHER INSIGHT INTO THE

FOREIGN MINISTERS' DISCUSSION ON SEPTEMBER 20. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE PIQUE AT THE SOVIET REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE THE EC AND SAID THAT THE EC SHOULD NOT PAY ANYTHING TO OBTAIN SUCH RECOGNITION. DURING THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' DISCUSSION, TWO DIVERGENT STRANDS WERE APPARENT: THE LARGE MEMBER STATES FAVORED ONLY "TECHNICAL RELATIONS" AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WITH CEMA, WHILE THE SMALLER STATES VIEWED THE PROPOSED EC/CEMA AGREEMENT AS A MEANS OF PLACING UNDER THE COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK THE CURRENT BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS THAT SOME EC MEMBER STATES HAVE WITH EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE SOURCE ALSO REPORTED THAT COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES PRESSED THE COUNCIL FOR AN EARLY DECISION ON RESPONDING TO THE CEMA PROPOSAL, ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE WAS UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM THE EAST EUROPEANS. UK FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND REPORTEDLY PUT FORTH THE SUGGESTION THAT AN INTERIM REPLY BE SENT TO CEMA, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A FULL SUBSTANTIVE REPLY BY THE TIME OF THE BELGRADE CSCE FOLLOW-UP MEETING. PLEASE PROTECT FOREGOING INFORMATION. HINTON

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